AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~NMASP~~ polypeptide~~, which is a polypeptide of *Neisseria meningitidis*, and has~~ having a molecular weight of ~~about 40~~ 44 kD to ~~about~~ 55 kD as determined in ~~SDS~~ sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) or a polypeptide at least 90% identical thereto and having a molecular weight of 44 kD to 55 kD as determined in SDS-PAGE, wherein the polypeptide is a polypeptide of *Neisseria meningitidis*.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~NMASP~~ polypeptide of claim 1, which has a molecular weight of ~~about~~ 44 ~~TO~~ to 53 kD.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~NMASP~~ polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the *Neisseria meningitidis* is selected from the group consisting of serogroup Types A-L and W.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~NMASP~~ polypeptide of claim 3, which is a polypeptide of *Neisseria meningitidis* [[is]] serogroup Type A, Type B, Type C or Type W.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~NMASP~~ polypeptide of claim 1, comprising [[a]] the amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting~~ of SEQ ID NO: 11~~, a sequence substantially homologous thereto, and a fragment thereof~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~NMASP~~ polypeptide of claim 1 ~~or a peptide fragment thereof~~, which specifically binds an antibody that specifically binds to a protein having the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 11.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An isolated peptide consisting of ~~the NMASP polypeptide of claim 1~~ an immunogenic fragment of 7 or more amino acids of a polypeptide of *Neisseria meningitidis* having a molecular weight of 44 kD to 55 kD as determined by ~~SDS~~ sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE).

8-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An antigenic composition comprising the ~~NMASP~~ polypeptide of any of claims 1, 5, or 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

15. (Original) An antigenic composition comprising the peptide fragment of claim 7, 8, or 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

16. (Original) The antigenic composition of claim 14 additionally comprising one or more adjuvants or immunostimulatory compounds.

17. (Original) The antigenic composition of claim 15 additionally comprising one or more adjuvants or immunostimulatory compounds.

18. (Original) The antigenic composition of claim 16 further comprising one or more immunogens selected from the group consisting of lipids, lipooligosaccharides, proteins, attenuated organisms and inactivated whole cells.

19. (Currently Amended) The antigenic composition of claim 18, wherein the lipids ~~is a~~ are phospholipids.

20. (Original) The antigenic composition of claim 17 further comprising optionally one or more immunogens selected from the group consisting of lipids, lipooligosaccharides, proteins, attenuated organisms and inactivated whole cells.

21. (Currently Amended) The antigenic composition of claim 20, wherein the lipids ~~is a~~ are phospholipids.

22. (Currently Amended) A vaccine composition comprising the ~~NMASP~~ polypeptide of any of claims 1, 5, or 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

23. (Original) A vaccine composition comprising the peptide fragment of claim 7, 8, or 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

24. (Original) The vaccine of claim 22 additionally comprising one or more adjuvants or immunostimulatory compounds.

25. (Original) The vaccine of claim 23 additionally comprising one or more adjuvants or immunostimulatory compounds.

26. (Original) The vaccine of claim 24 further comprising one or more immunogens selected from the group consisting of lipids, lipooligosaccharides, proteins, attenuated organisms and inactivated whole cells.

27. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim 26, wherein the lipids ~~is a~~ are phospholipids.

28. (Original) The vaccine of claim 25 further comprising one or more immunogens selected from the group consisting of lipids, lipooligosaccharides, proteins, attenuated organisms and inactivated whole cells.

29. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim 28, wherein the lipids ~~is a~~ are phospholipids.

30. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the ~~NMASP~~ polypeptide of any of claims 1, 5 or 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

31. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide fragment of claim 7, 8, or 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

32. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 30 additionally comprising one or more adjuvants or immunostimulatory compounds.

33. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 31 additionally comprising one or more adjuvants or immunostimulatory compounds.

34. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32 further comprising optionally one or more immunogens selected from the group consisting of lipids, lipooligosaccharides, proteins, attenuated organisms and inactivated whole cells.

35. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the lipids ~~is a~~ are phospholipids.

36. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 33 further comprising optionally one or more immunogens selected from the group consisting of lipids, lipooligosaccharides, proteins, attenuated organisms and inactivated whole cells.

37. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein the lipids ~~is a~~ are phospholipids.

38-51. (Canceled)

52. (New) The peptide of claim 7 wherein the polypeptide of *Neisseria meningitidis* having a molecular weight of 44 kD to 55 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11.